5/16/75

Dear Paul,

I wish there were some way in which I could make comprehensible the feeling of futility that overwhelms when I receive as well-intended a letter as yours of the 12th!

It has nothing to do with the possibilities of getting Post Mortem printed.

Rather is it (in part) that you reflect what has to date and more than ever now been the most ruinous of influences.

The separation between reality and what most people have a chance to hear is that great. As is the persuasivenss of what can be heard- by anyone.

An example: the man in that picture is Oswald (or an imposter). There is no possibility that this man so represented himself. The pictures in the NYReview are those that the Commission published (twice yet!) except for slightly different cropping . The man could not possibly present himself as a counterfeit Oswald and would have been crazy to try at a time when it could be proven Oswald had left Mexico.

With all the authencicated look-alikes and all the authenticated counterfeitings, going back to when Oswald was in Russia and there were imposters there and in New Orleens, why would anyone be zany enough to introduce another and a non-look-alike?

Our spooks photograph all entering certain embassies and consulates. They have done this since FDR recognized the USSR. God knows how many times they shot me when as a correspondent I entered and left the USSR bldgs on 16th St in Washington. But as I then did not wear a sign to identify myself, so also did those in Mexico indulge the same oversight. This made actual identification haphazard. Somebody in the Mexican spookery, where Oswald was unknown, did the wrong arithmetic. It was known that Oswald was there and they had this unidentified picture and put them together. When the CIA too late learned the mistake they were too embarrassed to admit it until there remained no choice. But in the same file that had been withheld that contained reports about this picture there were references to pictures in which people actually made identifications of Oswald. When I learned that the nut Fensterwald had sued for the wrong ones I suggested he sue for the right ones. But that did not suit whatever purposes he had in mind and he didn't.And so there is this nothingness in which significance does not exist that takes attentions away from the real and significant and still another opportunity for behind-the-scenes use to discredit everyone. You know all the executive agencies have formal and informal legislative representatives. This kind of nonsense is used with effectiveness to destroy the credibility of all. Naturally the spooks can make stuff up, but why not put them to the trouble? Why enable them to flash real stuff where it counts? You'll see what I mean when the Report of the Rockefeller Commission reports. I'll tick off for you a list of horrors in advance if you want. From the insane Gregory misuse of the "tramp" pictures not of tramps, not at the scene of the crime or at the time and not within sight of it to the seemingly respectable but actually utterly irresponsible, and self-promoting Wecht, who has this malpractise business he can't promote. And can't advertise it.

The self-promoters are legion but the authentic experts who have done authentic work are few and, I'm sure you don't even knows their names. The better-known ones, like Lane, who didn't even do all his own original work, has done none since the summer of 1966. Whatever he uses in speeches that has come out since then he merely rips off. At a conference at NYU a couple of weeks ago he tried to do this with the transcript in WW IV. They all do this one way or another. Shamelessly. Two weeks ago in a press release prior to a news conference, at, before and since that conference Wecht actually said that what I had shaken loose in two FOI attempts, one still in court, was his own work. He was like a swallowing snake when I showed up. Not having the sense or self-control to back off and say other things he went ahead and myasking

a couple of polite questions killed his attention. The press release had gotten two TV crews there, too. I had feared I was too subtle because I didn't want a hasty business in DC and because I was quite weak. It was the first day I was allowed out after pneumonia and pleurisy.

You have the same thing going on out there at this minute, the conference Freed and others have called to promote themselves and nothing else. At it there is not an authentic assassination expert. Some have been published, but even those who have good reputations in other areas have produced garbage only in this. The Freed-Lane Executive action is actually a direct theft from a black book by the French CIA, SDECE, probably with CIA collaboration (of the latter only do I not have proof). I know the field and the fact as nobody else does because I am the only one who has been in it continuously and concentratedly from the first and I do assure you that these are not those who have done and are doing what reasonable people who have any knowledge can call real work.

Lane is an exceedingly able man, an effective showman, but he has the conscience of a stiff prick. He can't appear with me because he knows I'll not sit still for the miserable tricks he pulls to deceive people while promoting himself and will ridicule him for his gross errors. I've done it and he has never once been able to come back. So, with his connections, he is able to see to it that I am not there. When he could not prevent this at the NYU meeting, although I was too sick to make my speech, he remained the keynoter, the only one. I was to be another. He got no mention, not attention in the press. But to give you an idea of what the media can do when they have the responsible and the new, I had a press conference that received exceptional electronic coverage. Although I had a fever of 102 I did go through with that. All the net key stations covered, most of the index did, and one, CBS', used taped excepts hourly around the clock the first day and for the next five days intermittently. People inside CBS have never heard of this attention to a single tape, a single appearance.

The media is prejudiced enough, as your own experience shows. But all the crap they know enough to recognize as crap merely turns them off on the subject and all real workers in it. You should hear what editors tell me about their reaction to what crosses their desks!

Again the current UCLA conference: why do you think I was not invited? Who do they have to talk on the King assassination? A nut from the Detroit area, a free-lancer who wrote a silly piece that, where it was in contact with reality, was all my work. Not because my work is not known. Freed has been playing games with me for more than a year ostensibly with the intent of doing a King movie around my work. But getting anything firm from him is impossible. When I would not go for a contract that was meaningless except for tying me up (which making a verbal agreement also accomplished) he wrote that he agreed with my request for tangibles and specifics and would provide them. In five month since, silence. No doubt he is engaged in ripping it off now. We'll know soon enough.

For all the unreal, like Executive Action and what they are up to now there is support. Actually, as the basis for Executive Action served spook purposes, so does all this wrongheaded stuff. So there is no real commercial fear in it.

So, it was not necessary, as you put it, for the spooks to work out this program. Those supposedly on our side, including to the best of my recollection all the so-called assasination experts in your area now and many others, have already done this for the government.

And here lies the greatest of the futilities and frustrations with which I seek to cope. With time I could better devote to other work these characters could then steal. It is worse because the climate has changed and there is a Congressional

willingness to take a look. But as each makes his own inquiry he gets scared and turned off because what he looks into turns out to be non-fact. There may yet be a hope with some of the new, younger Membersh but the once fine chances with the major committees are now utterly ruined and the best we can reasonable hope for is that they will not do as the Rockefeller Commission will.

My purpose in taking this time is not to unload. It is an effort to inform you. You have no independent way of distinguishing between fact and fiction. Who does? And I appreciate your willingness to try to be helpful.

Lou Gordon is able to discredit because those he can pick and chose discredit themselves. It takes more than the drama of the Zapruder film to have a real impact where it counts. The filmx is not conclusive. It is dramatic, it does shock. But it does not prove. Groden, whose photo-optics is excellent, originally did that work for me. He never knew much about the assassination itself. He is not even a reader. But when Gregody saw the public-relations possibilities they all rushed off to well-publicized ruin. I did what I could to deter the insane and to hold Groden in check, but when I was not present it was impossible. Groden tried to get Gordon to use me on the show. Gordon knows me form the time he tried to pull the stuff of which you talk with me. I took his show and his audience, so he's not about to repeat it. The actuality is that just before each of his appearances on the Gordon show Groden called me from Detroit and I preped him as best I could. If he was able to restrict himself to what I counselled and gave him for the Spitz confrontation he came off ok. If not, Gordon succeeded. Gordon is not aired around here.

The problem with copies of Post Mortem is paying for making them and one other, I have no copies of the revised first two parts without risking damage to the master, which is camera-ready. I may have to make them. I'll know within a week. I have xeroxes of the totally unrevised first two parts but I've cooled some of it since. Not major but some especially on the Washington Post. The one complete copy other than the master that I had in my personal possession had been at Playboy Press for about two months. That bureaucracy has not decided, after a favorable editorial recommendation. There is another in New York and still another in London. I've asked for the return of the London copy and the one in New York is to have been made available to a friend long in publishing who has developed an interest. The friend who had it was, after a week, still reluctant to part with it. Rather than go to New York and take it physically I'll have to risk handling the master, which has corrections taped on. But I won't be able to do anything until after Wednesday, when I spend the morning in court on the current FOI suit that has given me enough already to break the whole case with it alone if it can get attention.

I mean for real. But nobody with money takes the time to look and see, and the major media remains in terror of the truth and the consequences. It is a short-sighted and anti-Establishmentarian view that the Establishment does hold.

While long experience with perpetual plagiarism does make me uneasy about letting copies go to strangers, I know I have no real alternative. I would much prefer that those who have a real interest come here. Then I can also show the documentary proofs withm the chains of possession to my sources. You can't put this in a ms. The preference is unreal because these people put too high a value on their time and have lived lives of making successes with the unreal. Dealing with fact and the most sensational fact is foreign to them.

Had my scheduled appearance on the Sahl show not been scracthed with their internal troubles I'd have been out there and these people could have questioned me and seen what I could have carried with me. I don t suppose anyone would believe it but in the course of the intense decade I've spent on this I have come into possession of a large number of properties that are both socially useful and commercially promising. Likem a new Citizen Kane on one extreme and spook stories on the other. I can t carry all this stuff around and those who can make money with them don t take the time....Ive been interrupted a number of times over the two days it has taken to write this. I hope it comes through to you as I intend. I realize it can sound nutty but it is the truth.Thanks,